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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 004138

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARN, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, INR/NESA, R/MR,
I/GNEA, B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD
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LONDON FOR GOLDRICH
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NICOSIA FOR ILMG
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JORDAN: MEDIA REACTION ON GAZA BOMBING RAID

SUMMARY

JORDANIAN DAILIES ON JULY 25 CONTINUED TO BE DOMINATED BY THE RAID ON GAZA. SEMI-OFFICIAL INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-RAI REPORTED CONSERVATIVELY THE SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION, WHILE OTHER DAILIES CARRIED PHOTOS OF SLAIN CHILDREN BEING PULLED FROM UNDER THE RUBBLE, UNDER THE HEADLINE: "AMERICAN OPPOSES ANY INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GAZA MASSACRE."

COLUMNS OF A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DAILY EDITORIALISTS DID NOT APPEAR TODAY. THOSE THAT DID ATTACKED THE "MASSACRE" AND THE U.S. POSITION REGARDING IT, AND DEBATED WHETHER THE CORRECT PALESTINIAN RESPONSE WOULD BE REVENGE OR CALM.

NEWS REPORTS

THE CALL FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY SESSION TO DISCUSS THE GAZA RAID OCCUPIED THE LEAD SPACE ON ALL JORDANIAN DAILIES ON JULY 25. WHILE AL-RAI REPORTED CONSERVATIVELY: "EMERGENCY SESSION TO DISCUSS THE GAZA MASSACRE," OTHER DAILIES CARRIED GRUESOME PHOTOS OF SLAIN CHILDREN BEING PULLED FROM UNDER THE RUBBLE, UNDER THE HEADLINE: "THE U.S. OPPOSES ANY INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MASSACRE."

CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR AND INDEPENDENT, MASS-APPEAL ARABIC DAILY AL-ARAB AL-YAWM REPORTED THE DEMONSTRATION THAT TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY BEFORE THE UN BUILDING IN PROTEST AGAINST "THE MASSACRE AND INTERNATIONAL SILENCE REGARDING IT."

EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES

-- TAKING THE ARAB MIND LIGHTLY
FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE MOHAMMAD NAJI AMAYREH WROTE IN SEMI-OFFICIAL INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-RAI ON JULY 25: "WORDS ABOUT PEACE, SECURITY, AND STABILITY HAVE NOT BROUGHT FOOD TO THE HUNGRY, NOR BROUGHT US PEACE NOR STABILITY. TILL WHEN WILL WE HIDE BEHIND SLOGANS OF DEVELOPMENT, STABILITY AND INVESTMENTS? EVEN IF WE WERE TO ACHIEVE THOSE, THEY WILL ONLY BE DESTROYED BY THE ISRAELI MILITARY MACHINE THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. ARSENAL AND NEW WORLD ORDER. THE F-16S THAT BOMB RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN PALESTINE ARE THE SAME THAT BOMB IRAQ. BOTH KILL CHILDREN, WOMEN, AND OLD MEN. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ARAB WORLD AIMS AT ALL ARABS."

-- QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MASSACRE
DAILY COLUMNIST YASSER ZA'ATREH WROTE IN CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR ON JULY 25: "SHARON DID NOT COMMIT THE MASSACRE BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS AS SOME CLAIM, BECAUSE THE VISION OF BUSH IS THE SAME AS THAT OF SHARON, WHOSE PROGRAM SINCE ASSUMING POWER HAS NOT BEEN A SECRET. FURTHERMORE, SHEIKH YASSIN'S OFFER CAME IN ORDER TO AVOID A CLASH WITH THE PNA, NOT TO GIVE A CHANCE TO THE PEACE PROCESS, BECAUSE THE CONDITION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD STOP KILLING PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS AND WITHDRAW FROM PALESTINIAN CITIES WOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED BY SHARON AND BUSH. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MASSACRE IS TO BREAK THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND PEOPLE AND IMPOSE A HUMILIATING SETTLEMENT ON THEM. THE CORRECT RESPONSE TO SHARON'S LOGIC IS TO ESCALATE RESISTANCE OPERATIONS AND DEPRIVE HIM OF THE CHANCE TO BRAG THAT HE HAS BROKEN THE PALESTINIAN WILL."

-- THE GAZA CRIME - THE HARDER OPTION
DAILY COLUMNIST URAIB AL-RANTAWI WROTE IN CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR ON JULY 25: "THE CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL ATTITUDES TO ISRAEL CAME AT A HIGH PRICE IN PALESTINIAN BLOOD, AND FOR THIS REASON THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD NOT LET THIS BLOOD BE SHED IN

VAIN. THE MOST OBVIOUS RESPONSE WOULD BE REVENGE,
WHICH WOULD BE PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE. BUT THE HARDER
OPTION WOULD BE TO BEHAVE WISELY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH
OUR INTERESTS. ANYONE WHO DOUBTS THIS SHOULD REMEMBER
THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ASSASSINATION OF THE RACIST
LEADER REHAVAM ZEEVI." GNEHM